



Maricopa County

News Release

Environmental Services Department

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NATIONAL MOSQUITO CONTROL AWARENESS WEEK 2010

Maricopa County Environmental Services Department Reminds you to help "Fight the Bite"

The week of June 20 – June 26, 2010 has been declared the 14th annual "National Mosquito Control Awareness Week" by the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA). The AMCA is an international organization of nearly 2,000 public health professionals, and has been dedicated to preserving the public's health and well-being through safe, environmentally sound mosquito control programs since 1935.

"We once again join AMCA this year on raising awareness during 'Mosquito Week'", said John Kolman, director with the Maricopa County Environmental Services department. "Our goal is to educate the general public about the significance of mosquitoes in their daily lives and the important service provided by Vector Control inspectors of Maricopa County", Kolman added.

Vector Control is the Maricopa County Environmental Services department's division that investigates citizen complaints dealing with mosquitoes, flies, feral bees and non-native rodents. Vector Control inspectors identify routine mosquito breeding sites and apply the appropriate treatments. They also perform surveillance activities to identify new or potential breeding sites, and monitor and test mosquito samples that are collected on a weekly basis and tested for West Nile virus.

"The key is always personal safety, especially during the hot summer months when mosquitoes are most active", said John Townsend, Environmental Services department Vector Control division manager. Townsend also urged residents to utilize the following tips to prevent being bitten by a mosquito and to help maximize their protection from West Nile Virus (WNV):

- Eliminate mosquito-breeding sites around the home by removing standing water in potted plants, tires, bird baths and other containers where water may collect.
- Remove unnecessary clutter.
- Repair window and door screens to keep mosquitoes out of the home.
- Make sure pools and decorative ponds are properly maintained and operational.

Wherever you may be this weekend, bring your insect repellent along and please follow label instructions, especially for use on children. Share your insect repellent with those around you. Additionally:

- Wear light colored clothing with long sleeves and pants.
- If possible, avoid outdoor activity before dawn and after dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Use protective clothing and insect repellent when exposure to mosquitoes cannot be avoided.

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The Environmental Services department's Public Information Office has made available a multitude of distribution material related to West Nile virus, mosquito awareness, and *Aedes aegypti*. In addition to this material, presentations and educational programs for children, adults, and community organizations are available for residents to take advantage of.

For more information on West Nile virus, to set-up an appointment to obtain mosquito eating fish at no cost to you, to report green pools, file any mosquito related complaint, register on the Fogging Notification System or for WNV materials or presentations for your group/organization, please call the West Nile Virus General Information and Help Line at (602) 506-0700, or visit <http://www.maricopa.gov/wnv>.

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